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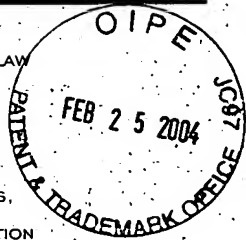
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LITIGATION, DISPUTE RESOLUTION

AND RELATED MATTERS



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February 12, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/669,159 filed 09/23/03
Applicant: Nish et al.
Title: **INTERNAL BEAM BUOYANCY SYSTEM FOR OFFSHORE
PLATFORMS**
Group Art Unit: 3673
Attorney Docket No. 21258.CIP

Sir/Madam:

Transmitted herewith for filing and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 is a
Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

Enclosed also are the following designated documents, as required under 37 C.F.R. §§
1.97 and 1.98:

- ☒ Form PTO-1449 list of 12 references submitted for consideration.
- ☒ Legible copies of the listed references or their relevant portions.
- ☐ All English translations of each non-English reference, if any, within the
possession, custody, control or availability of anyone designated in 37 C.F.R. §
1.56(c) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c)).

The following are included within the Information Supplemental Disclosure Statement if applicable and as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

- ☐ Concise explanation of relevance of each reference not in English and unaccompanied by an English translation.
- ☐ Statement that certain listed references not enclosed are substantially cumulative of an enclosed reference.
- ☐ Statement that certain listed references not enclosed were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in prior application no. _____, filed on _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

In order to secure consideration of the items designated above, one or more of the following, if required, is also enclosed:

- ☐ Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) or (2).
- ☐ Check No. _____ in the amount of _____ (amount in § 1.17(p)) constituting the submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

In the event that 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) applies and the Examiner is not satisfied that the Statement meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or in any other event remediable by a fee, please credit any over payment or charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0100 of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

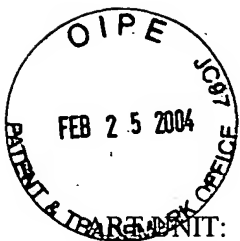


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GMH/skp

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARKS OFFICE

RECEIVED UNIT: 3673
EXAMINER:
APPLICANT: NISH et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/669,159
FILED: 9/23/2003
CONFRM. NO.: 1676
FOR: INTERNAL BEAM BUOYANCY SYSTEM
FOR OFFSHORE PLATFORMS

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: Feb 23, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee (along with any paper or fee referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Garron M. Hobson

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir/Madam:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). Applicant respectfully submits that this Information Disclosure Statement is filed pursuant to:

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b)(1) or (3), within three months of the filing date of the application, or before a first office action on the merits, whichever occurs last;

☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c), after a first office action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p); or

☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (d), after a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, but on or before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by both 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

While no representation is made that any of these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed list of references is disclosed so as to comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the references listed, together with any other references which may have been previously submitted or listed, are the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each listed reference (or relevant portion thereof) which was not previously submitted to, or cited by, the Patent Office is also enclosed.

For all listed references that are not either in the English language, or accompanied by a translation into English, a concise explanation of relevance as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) is enclosed attached to each.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

Dated this 23 day of February, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,




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GMH/skp
Enclosure

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PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE 	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 21258.CIP		SERIAL NO. 10/669,159
	APPLICANT Nish et al.		
	FILING DATE 09/23/03	GROUP 3673	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A1	4,102,142	07/25/78	LEE			
	A2	5,706,897	01/13/98	HORTON, III			
	A3	5,758,990	06/02/98	DAVIES et al.			
	A4	5,873,416	02/23/99	HORTON, III			
	A5	6,004,074	12/21/99	SHANKS, II			
	A6	6,155,748	12/05/00	ALLEN et al.			
	A7	6,347,912	02/19/02	THOMAS			
	A8	6,367,846	04/09/02	AARON, III			
	A9	6,406,223	06/18/02	THOMAS			
	A10	6,435,775	08/20/02	NISH et al			
	A11	6,439,810	08/27/02	NISH et al			
	A12	6,488,447	12/03/02	NISH et al			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	A13						
	A14						
	A15						
	A16						
	A17						

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	A18	
	A19	
	A20	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication with applicant.